

HALIFAX DEATH LIST MOUNTS---HORRIFYING DETAILS

President Wilson Signs Declaration of War on Austria

WAR MEASURE PASSED
AFTER SHORT DEBATE

Meyer London, Socialist, Only Member
of Congress Voting "No"—Miss
Rankin Supports Bill.

LA FOLLETTE QUILTS CHAMBER

Senator Says He Would Have Opposed Meas-
ure; Wanted Amendment Guarantee-
ing No Dismemberment.

America is at last formally and actually at war with Austria-Hungary. President Wilson last night signed the declaration that, with formalities waived and opposition virtually erased, had been adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives in less than four hours. The declaration dates from 5:03 p. m., when the President affixed his signature, and from that hour all the resources of the country stand pledged to push the war to a successful conclusion.

NEW YORK SOCIALIST VOTES "NO."

Only one voice was raised against the declaration in either branch of Congress, it being that of Meyer London, the New York Socialist. He voted "no" against the ayes cast by 365 other members of the House. In the Senate no voice was raised against the seventy-four affirmative votes. Senator La Follette did not vote, being out of the Senate chamber.

Vote Taken Quickly.

He and London divided the attention of the galleries by being the only two who would fight the declaration. Neither could as much as delay progress, however, so earnest were the two legislative groups, and so fully did Chairman Stone, in the Senate, and Chairman Flood, in the House, marshal their forces.

Chief interest in the House of Representatives centered about Meyer London, the Socialist, who was expected to speak and vote against the resolution. He declared he was pledged as a Socialist to vote against the spreading of war, and then begged for free and full discussion of international questions at all times.

"The President admits, concedes, that had the slogan of the Russian Socialists," he said, "No annexations, no punitive indemnities, no contributions—had the people of that long-suffering country and the land of martyrdom been listened to with due respect—Russia would have been the greatest power of international peace."

"But what happened? The slogan came from the Socialists of Russia and the reactionaries throughout the world denounced it as a German machine, as if you have to bribe people into loving peace." He added that his vote against war should not be construed as approval of German and Austrian actions in this conflict.

Explains Anti-War Stand.
"It is because I feel an obligation to express to the world my view of the situation," he said, "that I shall vote against war." London said, "anxious as I am that American people should appear unanimous, united, strong and irresistible, as a spiritual force for universal peace, to be based on no annexations, no indemnities, upon aid to the weaker and smaller nations, who have been invaded by the ruthless power of Germany and Austria, and upon aid to the spiritual forces, together with the revolutionary forces of rejuvenated Russia on the east and west, will help to wipe out every vestige of oppression throughout the world."

Mr. London was answered immediately by Lenroot, of Wisconsin, and Chandler, of New York. "It is strange," declared Lenroot, "that a man representing the Socialist party, that pretends to stand stronger than any of the other parties for real democracy and for a people's government, should take a position in the House the only effect of which can be to assist not only autocracy but the worst autocracy the world has ever known."

Chandler pointed out that London's position did not square with that of other great Socialists, such as Kersy and others, and that the Socialist party is loyal to France, Germany, Russia, and Austria, and that it was not too much to expect that Mr. London should be loyal to the United States.

"The only disloyal Socialism in the world is that led by Meyer London and Morris Hillquit, of New York," Chandler declared.

Miss Rankin votes for war.
Miss Jeannette Rankin, who voted against war last spring, voted for the declaration against Austria, but declared her views in no uncertain terms.

"I still believe that war is a stupid and futile way of attempting to settle international difficulties," she declared. "I believe that war can be avoided, and will be avoided when the people, the men and women in America, as well as in Germany, have the controlling voice in their governments. Today the special privileged interests are controlling the world."

"When the United States declared war on Germany it virtually declared war on Germany's allies. The vote that we are now to cast is not on the declaration of war. If I were I should vote against it. This is merely a vote on a technicality in the prosecution of the war."

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SAYS BURLESON
HAS OPPRESSED
POSTAL CLERKS

Thomas F. Flaherty Blames
Head of Department for
"Shattered Morale."

By CHARLES JARVIS.
In refutation of charges made in Postmaster General Burleson's report to Congress that the organization of postal employees are a "menace to public welfare and should be no longer condoned," Secretary Thomas F. Flaherty, of the National Federation of Postal Employees, declared here yesterday that the Postmaster General is attempting to hold the employees up to public scorn in order to cover up his administrative shortcomings.

Mr. Burleson states a strike among the postal employees is inevitable, and that threats to strike have been made. "I challenge him to name the instance where such threats were made. He cannot point to any group of his employees who have threatened to strike, neither can he name an accredited organization representative who has even remotely suggested it."

By alluding to the postal employees as potential revolutionaries he is seeking to discredit them and cast odium upon their present agitation for a badly needed wage increase. If the postal employees were not strike-proof they would long ago have resigned the repeated violation of their rights by Burleson in his autocratic disregard of the existence of a human element in the service.

In his report Mr. Burleson deprecates the tendency of the postal employees to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor. Of this Mr. Flaherty says: "If affiliation with the American Federation of Labor is the menace that Mr. Burleson pictures, then he is largely responsible for this menace. It is a significant fact that more postal employees have joined the United States Federation of Labor in the past year of Mr. Burleson's administration than in all the preceding years since Benjamin Franklin established our postal service 125 years ago."

"City carriers, railway mail clerks, postoffice clerks and even rural carriers are clamoring to join the labor movement. And why? Because they realize that four and a half years of a Burlesonized service—that they must have some strong influence to offset the repeated encroachments upon their rights as citizens and wage-earners. He views the service as a money-grubbing institution and the

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LEAK TO GERMANY
FOUND IN ARREST

News Sent Through Holland by Secretary of League.
Special to The Washington Herald.
New York, Dec. 7.—That reports upon economic and military conditions in this country have been going from New York to Gen. von Mackensen ever since the United States declared war against Germany, was one of the startling discoveries made by headquarters detectives and government Secret Service agents today, following the arrest yesterday of Otto Julius Merkel, self-styled secretary of the German University League. Merkel was arrested in the public library and sent to Ellis Island for internment.

Another sensational fact alleged to have been revealed by the mass of correspondence and private papers seized at the office of the German University League, No. 22 Fifth avenue, was the definite intimation in copies of Merkel's letters that a military organization of Germans "for defense" throughout the country was in process of formation.

On the other hand, some of the higher officers, who have the advantage of knowing the training plans for larger American forces to come, have a feeling that any immediate diversion of American forces to Italy would have the effect of disrupting these comprehensive plans. Civilians believe that American troops in Italy would have a great effect on the morale of the Italian Army. All officers avoid official expressions concerning the reported statement.

President Sends Message
Of Sympathy to Canada

As spokesman of the American people, President Wilson yesterday sent a message of deep sympathy to the stricken people of Halifax, brought to mourning by the disaster of Thursday.
In a telegram to the governor general of Canada, he said:
"In presence of the awful disaster at Halifax, the people of the United States offer to their noble brethren of the Dominion their heartfelt sympathy and grief, as is fitting at this time when to the ties of kinship and community of speech are added the strong bonds of union in the common cause of devotion to the supreme duties of national existence."
The President's message was sent late yesterday afternoon after official circles had waited all day for some definite news of the disaster at the Canadian port.



MAP OF HALIFAX AND OUTLYING DISTRICTS
AFFECTED BY THE SHOCK BLACK PORTION
SHOWS DEVASTATED AREA OF THE CITY

BRITISH TROOPS READY
FOR FINAL HUN DRIVE

Hindenburg Expected to Make Last Desperate
Assault on Western Front; Italians Lose
4,000 Prisoners in Their Retreat.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald and New York Tribune.
London, Dec. 7.—Following the retirement of Gen. Byng's troops from the northern section of the Cambrai salient has come a distinct lull in the fighting in that region. The British commander reports today that infantry action in the last twenty-four hours has been confined to patrol encounters, in which the British took prisoners.

EXPECT NEW MASSED ATTACK.
The Berlin war office makes no mention of any fighting activity in this important sector.

Unofficial dispatches from the British front, however, reflect the opinion that Hindenburg is preparing with every means at his command for the greatest stroke ever delivered against the allies on the Western front.

British Strengthen Lines.
This effort will be Germany's final and supreme bid for a military decision over her foes, observers predict. Further, it is declared that the British command, cognizant of the enemy's prodigious preparations, ordered the withdrawal of Gen. Byng's line before the British could be surprised by a better position from which to meet the coming blow.

Coincident with these rumors and speculations come reports that Haig is making ready for a renewal of his great drive in Flanders for the purpose of forcing a general retreat of the enemy before the beginning of the spring campaign. It is an accepted fact that the battle in the west will continue throughout the winter months with little diminution, although it will be impossible for the British to conduct any extensive operations in Flanders until the ground has frozen sufficiently to permit of the free movement of heavy artillery.

On the Verdun front today the Crown Prince made two powerful attempts to pierce the French trench lines, in the regions of Bezonvaux and Beaumont, but both attacks failed, according to the Paris communiqué. In the region of Rheims and the Rhone-Rhin canal artillery activity was marked.

The third day of fighting in the tremendous battle on the Asiago plateau brought the Austro-German drive to a temporary halt, though their desperate defensive efforts cost the Italians the loss of 4,000 men prisoners. The struggle is continuing without interruption along the restricted mountain front in the seven communities. Field Marshal Conrad's troops, according to the Rome war office, have been unable to extend their gains beyond the Sissom-Metta-Badinelli line attained yesterday.

Huns Storm Monte Sismol.

Today's German official statement, besides claiming captures which bring their total bag of prisoners for the three days up to 15,000, reports the storming of Monte Sismol, the last stronghold which the Italians reached in readjusting their defense line. The

THE WAR IN THE
HOLY LAND!
The Washington Herald announces for next week the publication of six important articles about
"THE WAR SUFFERINGS
OF PALESTINE"
By HERMAN BERNSTEIN,
Founder of The Day and Editor of the American Hebrew.
The foremost Jewish editor and writer in the United States. They will begin on Monday and end on Saturday.
Be sure and read all six articles. They tell the story of the Holy Land's sufferings as it never has been told since the war began. Remember—
Starts Monday --- Ends Saturday

STORM STOPS RELIEF;
PLAGUE THREATENEDBIG OFFENSIVE
ON WEST FRONT
IS TEUTON AIM

Scene of Fighting to Be
Shifted from East by
the Huns.

By FRANK W. GETTY.
Special cable to The Washington Herald and New York Tribune.
London, Dec. 7.—There is reason and good reason to expect a big German offensive in the West this month. This may come against the British, the French or the Italians and it is not inconceivable that it may be launched against all three.
Today Germans began a ten-day armistice with the Russians and Rumanians along the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. During the next ten days, and probably for a longer period, if Germany so desires, the central powers will not need to employ any active fighting forces against the once great Eastern enemy, and she will be able to move her 115 divisions still on that front at will.
This means that Hindenburg has approximately 1,000,000 men at his disposal. For enemy divisions on the East front average only about 8,000 men and the Russian front has been manned by a sort of a rest camp for battle-weary troops, battered by the British and French on the Western front.

Germany Pushes War.
Germany is rushing the war. She is battling against an opponent whose strength is growing with every round and who in the course of time will inevitably be the stronger.

Therefore, Germany's only hope lies in the much discussed "knockout blow," only this time Germany is the one trying to deliver the blow. By spring America's weight will be felt on the fields of France and by fall the allies will be definitely stronger. Provided, of course, no other ally forgets the allies' cause and goes deliberately out of the war.

Time, as Lloyd George said, is on our side. Therefore Germany, whom no one will accuse of being blind or even near-sighted, if it could not win such matters, will certainly make a really big effort to take time by the forelock and bring things to an end before America's full weight is thrown into the balance against her.

Expect New Offensive.
So, instead of winter inactivity, rest and preparation, it looks today as though the allies are in for a strenuous time in the near future. A German offensive may come against the British salients either

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AMERICAN AIRMEN
VICTIMS OF RAID

Casualties Reported by Gen. Pershing to Department.

The first American casualties in the air since war was declared were announced by the War Department yesterday afternoon.

Private Edward P. Ebsen was severely wounded and Corporal Walter A. Warren was slightly hurt. The casualties were reported by Gen. Pershing, commanding the American expeditionary force. Although the report was not definite on the subject, it is believed at the War Department that the men were wounded by a stray shell or in a German air raid, rather than in actual flight.

Ebsen's next of kin is his father, George H. Ebsen, of Buffalo, Mo. Warren's sister, Mrs. Ida Smith, resides at 203 Smith street, Dublin, Ga.

Five deaths of American soldiers in France are noted in a report received late last night from Gen. Pershing. They are:

Adolph Biedzycki, private, Englewood, November 25; heart failure; brother, Eddie Biedzycki, 485 Monna avenue, East Chicago, Ind.

Paul Lindley, private, Engineer, spleen, December 4; rupture, spleen, December 4; rupture, spleen, December 4; rupture, spleen, December 4.

William S. Matthews, private, stevedore, December 4; fracture of skull; mother, Mrs. Nina Matthews, 1430 Riggs avenue, Baltimore.

Abner L. Clark, private, infantry, December 2 (no cause given); mother, Mrs. H. D. Clark, Park street, Easthampton, Mass.

21 Survivors of Lost

Actaon Reach Madrid
Madrid, Dec. 7.—Twenty-one survivors of the American steamer Actaon, which was torpedoed and sunk on November 25, have arrived here. They suffered severely from exposure.

Death Toll Remains at 2,000 as Burials
Are Hurried to Avoid Pestilence,
While Fire Sweeps the City.

SCORES NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

American Bluejackets Help Patrol Stricken
City—Mercy Workers Hampered by
Snowstorm, Which Aids Firemen.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Dec. 8 (Saturday).—A canvass at all the morgues early this morning showed that thus far 1,600 dead have been extricated from the ruins. Hundreds are still buried. It is now regarded as certain that the total death toll exceeds the 2,000 mark, with approximately 3,000 injured.

As night fell, Halifax, rent asunder yesterday by the blast that followed the collision between a Belgian food ship and a floating arsenal, resembled a huge battlefield after the carnage is over and Samaritans have set to work.

They have been busy more than thirty hours now, but so terrible is the havoc wrought by the 4,000 tons of explosives that rained down on the harbor and city, so frightful is the misery and suffering caused to thousands, that it seems real relief is just beginning.

STORM TEMPER DISASTER.

Over the northern section of the city the sky is still red in gruesome, beautiful relief, with the heaven-sent blanket below. But all danger of the flames spreading is over, thanks largely to the snowstorm.

Two thousand is still a conservative estimate of the death toll. The actual figure may exceed it. Hundreds are still unaccounted for.

Into the leaden atmosphere of grief and suffering came, all day long, like rays of sunshine, proofs of the sympathy of a whole continent—messages from every part of Canada and the United States.

Trains upon trains poured into the city, bringing loads of goods, medicines, blankets and supplies. Going back, they took to near-by towns and villages hundreds of wounded.

Burials by Wholesale.

With the staggering death toll, the greatest fear of the authorities is that of pestilence. Wholesale burials have begun. Salvage corps, working amid the wreckage, bent every effort to extricate the dead. The snowstorm added ominously to the pall that hangs over this ruined city. It made relief work doubly hard.

Of the property damage no estimate can yet be ventured, so great is the havoc.

The government has instituted a thorough investigation into the cause of the disaster. The harbor and city are virtually under martial law, the military being in charge of the reconstruction and relief work.

American bluejackets took a leading part in the work of mercy. They are from the crew of an American warship lying in the harbor.

Three men were appointed by the Canadian government to conduct an official inquiry into the deaths and injuries of the 5,000 victims of the explosion tragedy, according to a late message from Ottawa. The committee is composed of one judge, one naval expert and one mercantile expert. Justice Drysdale, the only admiralty judge in Nova Scotia, has been named to head the commission.

Rail and Water Lines to Be

Under One Head.

Is Report.

With the railroad operators obviously drawing together for a stubborn resistance to government control, and members of Congress only awaiting the hint from President Wilson as to what to do, there was a well-based rumor last night that out of the whole matter would evolve a transportation board co-ordinating all the possible systems of the country for war expediency. Such a board would organize and operate:

1. Railroads of all systems under priority regulations that would move the most essential war supplies first.
2. Waterways throughout the country with millions of available tonnage to supplement the faster travel; with elimination of the competition with the railways for the period of the war.
3. Highways, running principally from the West to the East through the great manufacturing and supply districts and the employment of the thousands of motor trucks almost instantly available; roads to be put in good condition by simple, practicable methods.

Traffic "Dictator."
This plan would provide a transportation "dictator." The country already has its "dictators" for some of the large problems—Hoover for food; Hurley for ships; Garfield for fuel; McAdoo for finance and the other experts of the American War Council, as nominal dictators of their various departments. In the council is Daniel Willard, transportation chief. But he has nothing to do with anything but railways. There was

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ROUMANIA MAKES
TRUCE WITH HUNS

Signs Ten-Day Armistice—Peace Promises and Food Win Russians.

London, Dec. 7.—Obeying the command of self-preservation, Rumania has officially joined in the armistice agreement between Russia and the central powers. A ten-day truce on the whole front from the Baltic to the Black Sea went into effect at noon today.

Not a word is said in the formal agreement regarding the transfer of German troops from the eastern to other fronts.

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